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WACKENHUT

SECURITY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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May 23, 1997

THE WACKENHUT CORPORATION
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Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20000

RE: The Wackenhut Corporation
800MHz SMR Proceeding;
FCC PR Docket No. 93-144

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Wackenhut Corporation ("Wackenhut") is a licensee of an 800 MHz spectrum which has been targeted for reallocation and eventual auction in the Commission's recent First Report and Order ("Order") in PR Docket No. 93-144. As a corporation, Wackenhut's provision of security protection for persons and commercial, public and private property will be endangered. Wackenhut wishes to express its deep concern that the Commission's proposal to relocate incumbents, such as Wackenhut, could damage public safety interests.

Wackenhut employs over 52,000 personnel worldwide and maintains over 100 offices nationwide with operations in 52 countries on 6 continents. In its areas of operation, Wackenhut is frequently requested to perform a role traditionally reserved for police forces. South Florida, where Wackenhut is an 800 MHz licensee, is a primary area where Wackenhut performs these quasi law enforcement functions. These duties include protection of the public transportation system of Metropolitan Dade County and Palm Beach-Broward Counties' 67 mile TriRail commuter system. In this public security role, Wackenhut regularly detains persons for crimes such as robbery, theft, assault, and fare evasion. In addition, Wackenhut provides quasi law enforcement protection services for private citizens, including business executives and other individuals who may be the target of

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criminal acts such as kidnapping, burglary, and assault. Further, large scale residential communities, retail establishments, commercial complexes, alarm responses, and revenue collection are part of Wackenhut's quasi law enforcement contractual business.

To protect the public and effectively perform these functions, Wackenhut employs a highly-trained, experienced force of 2,000 officers in South Florida alone; most Wackenhut officers are former police officers and former United States military personnel. These personnel utilize an 800 MHz mobile radio system that is integrated with Wackenhut's Private Operational-Fixed Microwave Service (POFS) facilities to provide communications with a central dispatch center. This 800 MHz mobile radio system supports several critical functions, including status reporting, man-down alert, and alarm response.

Wackenhut's communications system also serves as a redundant telecommunications link so that, if commercial telephone service is lost, Wackenhut personnel will still have contact with the central dispatch center and other safety officials when they need it most. For example, in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, Wackenhut brought in hundreds of officers from other areas of the country to support crucial safety operations. Without its communications system, successful operations would have been impossible in light of the tremendous damage inflicted by the storm.

Virtually all of Wackenhut's current \$54 million annual revenue in South Florida is contractually tied to its exclusive communications capability. Wackenhut uses its 800 MHz system as a constant lifeline for its personnel and for the individuals they protect. Wackenhut officials regularly utilize an emergency panic button when they are in trouble. This panic button permits the central dispatch center to determine the sender, to fix his or her exact location, and to dispatch assistance. In summary, Wackenhut's business is to protect the public and its own personnel against harm and to apprehend suspects for police arrest. These vital tasks could not be performed without Wackenhut's communications capability.

The critical safety functions supported by this system demand a rational and well-planned transition to different facilities -- not a haphazard relocation completed over an abbreviated period that could involve inferior facilities thrust upon a secondary licensee with no transition or negotiation rights.

The Commission's proposal to permit incumbents in the 800MHz SMR and General Category pools to be relocated in favor of auction winners greatly troubles Wackenhut. In particular, Wackenhut is concerned that it will not be able to utilize its communications systems in a manner as effectively as it does today. When protecting life and property, every second counts. Although Wackenhut does not

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technically qualify as a Public Safety licensee under the Commission's rules, the job we do directly protects lives. Therefore, the Commission is urged to take into account the unique safety considerations involved in Wackenhut's activities and to prevent these communications systems from being replaced by an auction winner. Should there be any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WACKENHUT CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. R. Wackenhut", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By:

Richard R. Wackenhut
President and
Chief Operating Officer

cc: → William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Dan Phythyon, Acting Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Tom Gerrard
Advanced Radio Communication